

At the forefront of dental science

An interview with Prof. Ryutaro Kamijo, Chairman of the organising committee of the 65th meeting of the Japanese Association for Dental Research in Tokyo



Prof. Ryutaro Kamijo is Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the School of Dentistry of Showa University in Japan.

By DTI

On 18 and 19 November, fascinating Tokyo will play host to the 65th annual meeting of the Japanese Association for Dental Research (JADR). Ahead of the event, *Dental Tribune* had the opportunity to speak with event Chairman Prof. Ryutaro Kamijo about this year's theme, highlights of the scientific programme and progress in dentistry.

What is the focus of this year's event?

The main theme of this congress is "Forefront of dental science—Toward a global standard in medical science". JADR has promoted a wide variety of specific studies related to dental medicine and played important roles in this field, including the provision of a gateway to global development of dental science in Japan. In addition,

the members of JADR have made primary contributions to the remarkable progress in dentistry that we have seen throughout the world. To further advance dental studies in the future, innovation and interdisciplinary communication are needed to fully understand, share and discuss important problems and provide solutions. Therefore, the theme of this meeting was chosen to further spur a worldwide evolution in dentistry.

The official congress language will again be English—quite unusual for a regional congress. What was this decision based on?

JADR decided that the official language of its congresses would be English many years ago. As a division of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), one of the most important issues for JADR is to serve as an excellent medium for international exchange in dental research. For this purpose, the official language of the congress should be English.

Overall, how many visitors do you expect?

Since the early registration deadline has not yet passed, it is difficult to predict participant numbers for this congress. We currently expect about 450 national and international visitors.

What did you aim at when composing the scientific programme—are there any trending topics that you wanted to address with the choice of lectures?

We have invited Prof. Angus William G. Walls (IADR), Dr Seong-Ho



Choi (Korean Division of the IADR), Dr Harry-Sam Selikowitz (FDI World Dental Federation) and Prof. Irma Thesleff (University of Helsinki) as special lecturers, and they will be sharing with us their future outlook with regard to dental science.

As for the keynote address, Prof. Kazutoshi Mori from Kyoto University will be presenting an interesting lecture titled "Dynamics of function and regulation of the endoplasmic reticulum".

We are also holding three symposiums on three particular topics, titled "Cutting-edge etiology

of periodontitis: Next sights for host-parasite interaction", "Life science in space—Biomedical researches performed in the international space station" and "Advances in iPS cell research and its application to dental medicine", as we see them as addressing vital issues faced by dental researchers throughout the world.

Where do you anticipate key developments that will significantly shape the dental profession in the years to come?

If I had to name three areas that I think will see major shifts, these would be regenerative den-

tistry, dental materials and CAD/CAM dentistry.

Apart from the scientific input, what can attendees look forward to at the congress?

We are hosting a reception on Saturday, 18 November, at the Tower Restaurant in the Showa University Hospital. And, of course, there is Tokyo. Japan's capital city is a mix of ultra-modern skyscrapers and traditional historical tourist attractions, which—I hope—all attendees will be able to enjoy in November.

Thank you very much for the interview.

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